

Greetings all. Please see the release below from the Georgia government about an arrest today that thwarted another bombing. Regards, John

GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA

PRESS STATEMENT

Georgian Police Prevent Terrorist Attack Against NATO Liaison Office in Tbilisi, Orchestrated by Russian Special Services

Tbilisi • June 6, 2011

The Ministry of Internal Affairs today detained **Badri Bagiashevili** for attempting to transport to Tbilisi an improvised explosive device (hexogen, with a timer and a detonator); **Bagiashevili** is a Georgian citizen who resides in the village Akhmaji, which is in the Russian-occupied Georgian district of Akhalkalaki, in about 40 kilometers from Tbilisi.

According to the **Bagiashevili's** testimony, he was acting under the direction of the deputy chief of the Russian FSB border guards unit located in Akhalkalaki district, **Aleksei Nikolaevich Sokolov**. **Sokolov** instructed **Bagiashevili** to place and detonate the bomb near the NATO Liaison Office Building on Atoneli Street in Tbilisi (where the US Embassy in Georgia was located until 2006). **Sokolov** promised **Bagiashevili** 2,000 USD as compensation for the terrorist attack.

Sokolov first contacted **Bagiashevili** on April 15, 2011, instructing him to travel to Tbilisi to record a video of several buildings in the center of the capital—namely on Rustaveli Avenue and nearby streets—which flew the flags of the US, EU, and other foreign nations and international organizations. Then, **Sokolov**, having assessed the video recording, contacted **Bagiashevili** again on May 28 through **Vladimir Pukhaev**, the chief of police of "South Ossetia's" proxy regime in the Russian-occupied district of Akhalkalaki. **Pukhaev** gave **Bagiashevili** the explosive device, together with **Sokolov's** instructions.

Bagiashevili was apprehended by Georgian police in the Mtskheta district, after he crossed the line of Russian occupation.

The demining unit of the MIA neutralized the explosive device. Relevant photo and video footage is available at: <http://police.ge/index.php?m=8&newsid=2521&lng=geo>

This is the 12th instance since 2009 that a case of terrorism and sabotage organized by Russian Special Services in Georgia has come under investigation by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Another attempt by Russian Special Services—to detonate a bomb in the marketplace of the town of Senaki in western Georgia—was foiled by the police on June 2.

For further information, please contact: Shota Utiashvili, Director of Information and Analysis Department, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. Tel.: + 995.77.506.056.

Greetings all. Attached and below is the latest release from the Government of Georgia. Best Regards,
John

GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA

INFORMATION NOTE

Police Announce Detention of 24-Person Armed Group That Had Planned Violence During Recent Protests

**Prosecution brings charges against Nino Burjanadze's husband;
no missing protesters identified or considered officially missing**

Tbilisi • May 30, 2011

On May 26, 2011, in the village of Kinstvisi in Georgia's central Shida Kartli region, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) detained a group of 24 armed men. They are members of the newly established "Nationalist-Religious Movement," which is aligned with the "People's Assembly," led by Nino Burjanadze, and its paramilitary wing, "Sworn-in-brothers."

On May 30, the MIA released videotaped testimonies of several detainees, as well as intercepts of their telephone communications among each other and with individuals in Russia. These recordings—which were the result of court-approved sting operations—reveal plans to provoke violence during the recent demonstrations in Tbilisi. The conspirators aimed to storm the headquarters of the Georgian Public Broadcaster, as well as other public buildings, to set police vehicles aflame, and to violently resist the police.

The evidence gathered thus far indicates that the group of 24 detained criminals was directed from Moscow by Teimuraz Khachishvili. Khachishvili formerly was one of the leaders of a notorious paramilitary group, "Mkhedrioni," and also served as Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia in the early 1990s. He spent 7 years in prison for organizing a terrorist attack in 1995 that targeted Georgia's former president, Eduard Shevardnadze, and is currently residing in the Russian Federation. The evidence also clearly indicate that leaders and members of this criminal group coordinated their actions with Nino Burjanadze's husband, Badri Bitsadze, and other leading members of the "People's Assembly."

According to the testimony of one of its members, on May 26 this armed group planned to move from the village of Kinstvisi to the village of Igoeti, on the central highway of Georgia, where it would be joined by a larger armed group led by Khachishvili. Khachishvili had planned to sneak into the country through the Russian-occupied Georgian territory of Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia in order to join the violent protests in Tbilisi and seek to provoke massive disorder.

Video evidence is available on the website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs at:
<http://police.ge/index.php?m=8&newsid=2517>.

Also today, the Office of the Prosecutor of Georgia charged Badri Bitsadze with "organizing attacks against police by a group," which is punishable under Article 353(2) of Georgia's Criminal Code. These charges are based on the testimony of Gia Uchava, leader of "Sworn-in-Brothers" and other witnesses, as well as on court-approved secret audio and video recordings by the police.

In addition, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has addressed the unfounded allegations regarding citizens who purportedly went missing after the illegal May 26 demonstration was dispersed. On May 27, the

MIA released a list of 103 detainees; since then, no one notified the police about any additional missing people. The Ministry does not consider a person to be missing unless formally notified by that person's family.

Contact: Shota Utiashvili, Director of Information and Analysis Department, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. Tel.: + 995 77 506 056

Greetings all. This Georgia Govt release was sent to me late last night. Sorry if it is getting to you late as a result, but wanted you to have it. Cheers, John

GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA

INFORMATION NOTE

Police Releases New Video Recordings of Protest Leaders Planning to Instigate Violence

List of 103 detainees made public; most charged with minor crimes

Tbilisi • May 27, 2011

On May 27, the Ministry of Internal Affairs released a new video recording in which leaders of the radical opposition movement “People’s Assembly,” together with members of its “Sworn-in-brothers” wing (a group of about 3,700 men), are seen making preparations to spark violence during the recent demonstrations in Tbilisi and Batumi. They discuss instigating clashes with the police by using sticks, shields, slingshots, and other improvised weapons, as well as using Molotov cocktails to set police cars aflame.

The MIA also released the taped testimony of retired General Gia Uchava, a close collaborator of Badri Bitsadze (the husband of radical opposition leader Nino Burjanadze) and the leader of the “Sworn-in-brothers.” In the recording, Uchava confesses that he and his collaborators planned to violently storm the buildings of the Tbilisi City Council and the Georgian Public Broadcaster in Tbilisi. They presumed this would lead to massive disorder.

Both video recordings—which resulted from a court-approved sting operation—are available at: <http://police.ge/index.php?m=8&newsid=2506>.

Meanwhile, a new video shot on the night of May 26 and made available today by the MIA, clearly shows how the cars of Nino Burjanadze’s motorcade ran over protesters and police officers—hitting several of them, and killing two—as well as how protesters armed with sticks attacked the police. The video of these incidents are available at: <http://police.ge/index.php?m=8&newsid=2514>,

The MIA also published the list of 103 people detained during the protests in Tbilisi and Batumi (available at: <http://police.ge/index.php?m=8&newsid=2515>). The majority have been sentenced to two months administrative detention for hooliganism, resisting the police, and minor crimes. Criminal cases have been opened only against Ivane Chigvinadze, assistant to Nino Burjanadze, and Shakria Zurashvili, a member of Burjanadze’s party, who were the drivers of the two cars that hit and killed one civilian and one police officer on May 26 (earlier video of the hit-and-run incident is available at: <http://police.ge/index.php?m=8&newsid=2505>), as well as against Gia Uchava and a few other protesters who violently attacked and crushed a police car on May 22 in the vicinity of the Georgian Public Broadcaster building (video of this incident is available at: <http://police.ge/index.php?m=8&newsid=2493>). None of the organizers of the protests have been detained.

Contrary to reports by some media outlets, none of those detained is accused of attempting a coup d’état.

Contact: Shota Utiashvili, Director of Information and Analysis Department, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. Tel.: + 995 77 506 056

Greetings all. For those of you monitoring events in Georgia, below is an updated statement from the government. If you need clarification of anything, please contact Shota, whose number is at the end of the statement. Just FYI on a few things that I have seen floating around: the leaders of this demonstration hardly qualify as "major" opposition figures. Polls show their party has about 2 percent support. No one has been charged with murder or treason or plotting a coup; the incident is under investigation, and criminal charges are pending. Keep in mind that it was a convoy of the opposition that ran over the victims. Contact me if I can help. Best, John Anderson/Podesta Group

GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA

PRESS STATEMENT

Updated Information from the Government of Georgia on the Recent Protests

Two killed by protest leaders' cars; government releases audio recordings of opposition leader

18:00 Tbilisi • May 26, 2011

On May 26, 2001, in Tbilisi, a legal and legitimate operation was undertaken by the police to clear a group of several hundred protesters who had occupied an area near Parliament where the annual military parade commemorating Georgia's Independence Day was due to take place Thursday. Many of the protesters resisted the police. As a result, 2 people died and a total of 37 people were injured, including 8 police officers, 1 journalist, and 27 civilians.

The two people were killed when they were hit by cars carrying Nino Burjanadze, her family members, and several others who left the protest area driving at high speed through the corridor created by the police for the protesters to leave the protest area on Rustaveli Avenue. Relevant video footage is available on the website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia at: <http://police.ge/index.php?m=8&newsid=2505&lng=eng>. One of these cars was driven by Nino Burjanadze's assistant, Ivane Chighvinadze, and another by a member of her political party Zakaria Zurashvili. Both drivers were detained by the police. The dead were a civilian, Nodar Tskhadadze, and a police officer, Vladimir Masurashvili.

At present, the police have detained 90 of the protest participants. The majority of them were sentenced to two months administrative detention. Criminal cases were opened against several of them. None of the organizers of the protests have been detained.

Tbilisi City Hall, in an official statement released at 8:00 pm on May 25, had requested that the protest organizers move the demonstration to another area and offered them several alternative venues, so that they would not disrupt the Independence Day celebrations (including a military parade). But the radical

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leaders refused. Later, at 11:30 pm, a City Hall representative approached the protest organizers to personally ask them to fulfill City Hall's legitimate and legal request—making clear that after 12:00 am on May 26, the rally would be considered illegal. Unfortunately, the organizers again refused to comply and several hundred protesters remained in front of Parliament.

On May 26, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia released an audio recording that reveals that prior to the start of the protests, Nino Burjanadze and her son, Anzor Bitsadze, discussed scenarios for violently overthrowing the government, including fostering civil war and bloodshed. On the audio recording, Anzor Bitsadze is heard saying that the goal of overthrowing the government is worth the lives of 100-500 men. On the same recording, Nino Burjanadze's predicts that 30 000 demonstrators would gather for the rally. Bitsadze says that he believes that the army is weak and that if the Kojori Special Tasks Battalion dares to shoot at the protesters, they will have to deal with the Russian Military Intelligence's GRU Special Task Forces. The audio recording—which was the result of a court-approved sting operation—is available at: <http://police.ge/index.php?m=8&newsid=2506>.

The Government remains fully committed to doing everything possible to enable all Georgians to freely exercise their democratic rights of assembly and expression, while protecting the safety of all citizens and safeguarding the civil liberties of all those who choose to demonstrate.

Contact: Shota Utiashvili, Director of Information and Analysis Department, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. Tel.: + 995 77 506 056

Greetings all. Here's a release from the Government of Georgia concerning the incident today on the occupation line. Cheers....John

Statement by the Government of Georgia regarding the armed attack on five civilians in the Sachkhere district on May 18 2011

Two Georgian citizens were shot and injured today, one gravely, when occupation forces from Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia opened fire on them. The incident occurred at about 8 a.m. as five young men from the Chaltvani village were collecting edible plants in the Chonto valley, Sachkhere District, near the occupation line. Occupation forces attempted to detain them, but the men (ages 17, 21, 22, 26 and 27) managed to escape. As they did, occupants opened fire, wounding two citizens, including a 17-year-old pupil from a local school who remains hospitalized in a grave condition.

Four other Georgian citizens who were also collecting plants were apprehended today and are being illegally detained.

The Government of Georgia believes that this incident is a criminal and brutal act which escalates tensions in the areas adjacent to Georgia's occupied regions.

Other Georgian citizens were already illegally detained in Tskhinvali region/ South Ossetia before today's incident, despite firm demands for their release by the international community.

Today's incident and the on-going detentions illustrate that the Russian Federation and its proxies continue to pursue a policy aimed at destabilizing and terrorizing the local population.

The Government of Georgia insists that responsibility for today's incident, as well as the fate of the detained persons, rests with the Russian Federation, as an occupying state.

In addition to recent series of terrorist acts deep inside Georgia that were directed from the occupied territories, the Russian forces are further escalating tensions.

Such actions by the Russian Federation are in gross violation of the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, as well the explicit commitments made by the Russian delegation at the Geneva discussions not to undertake any violent action against local residents moving around or even crossing the occupation line.

The Government of Georgia calls on the Russian Federation to take concrete steps to put an end to terrorist acts and similar aggressive actions, to reciprocate Georgian commitment of non-use of force, allow EUMM to access the occupied territories, comply with the August 12th 2008 Ceasefire agreement and withdraw its troops from Georgia.

Tbilisi, 18 May 2011